

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An optical disc playback apparatus which has an optical pickup receiving ~~reflected-laser light~~ reflected from an optical disc that is irradiated by laser light, comprising:

a signal level detector that detects a level of a signal obtained from said reflected laser light; and

a determining circuit that ~~based on said level~~ determines which side if said optical pickup is located on; an information recording area or an information non-recorded area of said optical disc according to whether the level detected by the signal level detector continues to be above or below a predetermined reference value during a predetermined time period.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~when said level of said signal obtained from said reflected light is less than a predetermined reference value,~~ said determining circuit determines that said optical pickup is located on said information non-recorded area ~~side~~ when the level detected by the signal level detector continues to be above or below the predetermined reference value during the predetermined time period.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 4~~2~~, wherein ~~when~~

said optical pickup is ~~located on said an information non-recorded area side~~, said optical pickup is made to move to an inner circumference side or an outer circumference side of said optical disc when said determining circuit determines that said optical pickup is located on said information non-recorded area.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

an optical pickup position detector that detects whether said optical pickup is located on an inner circumference side of said optical disc,

wherein ~~based on a detecting result of said optical pickup position detector~~, said optical pickup is made to move from said inner circumference side to said outer circumference side when said optical pickup position detector detects that said optical pickup is located on said inner circumference side of said optical disc.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim [[4]]~~3~~, further comprising:

an optical pickup position detector that detects whether said optical pickup is located on said inner circumference side of said optical disc,

wherein ~~based on a detecting result of said optical pickup position detector~~, said optical pickup is made to move from said outer circumference side to said inner circumference side when said optical pickup position detector detects that said optical pickup is not located on said inner circumference side of said optical disc.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected laser light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected laser light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected laser light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected laser light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected laser light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc, wherein the optical disc is irradiated with laser light and an optical pickup receives laser light reflected from the optical disc, the method comprising:

detecting a level of a signal obtained from the reflected laser light; from an optical disc is detected, and

based on said level, it is determined which side determining if said optical pickup is located on; an information recording area or an information non-recorded area of said optical disc according to whether the detected level continues to be above or below a predetermined reference value during a predetermined time period.

Claim 15 (New): The method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc according to claim 14, wherein:

the signal obtained from the reflected laser light is an RF signal, and

detecting a level of a signal further comprises detecting a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

Claim 16 (New): The method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc according to claim 14, further comprising:

causing said optical pickup to move to an inner circumference side or an outer circumference side of said optical disc when said determining determines that said optical pickup is located on the information non-recorded area.

Claim 17 (New): The method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc according to claim 16, further comprising:

detecting whether said optical pickup is located on said inner circumference side of said optical disc,

causing said optical pickup is made to move from said inner circumference side to said outer circumference side when said detecting detects that said optical pickup is located on the inner circumference side of said optical disc.

Claim 18 (New): The method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc according to claim 16, further comprising:

detecting whether said optical pickup is located on said inner circumference side of said optical disc,

causing said optical pickup is made to move from said outer circumference side to said inner circumference side when said detecting detects that said optical pickup is not located on the inner circumference side of said optical disc.

Claim 19 (New): The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is about 20 milliseconds.

Claim 20 (New): The method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined time period is about 20 milliseconds.